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ARTICLE APPEARED ON PAGE A3

NEW YORK TIMES
13 December 1985

Italy Indicts Ex-Aide in 1980 Bombing

By RALPH BLUMENTHAL

A former Italian intelligence official being held in jail in New York City has been indicted with others in Italy on a new charge of "masterminding" the 1980 bombing of the Bologna train station that killed 85 people.

The former official, Francesco Pazienza, denied the charge in a telephone call yesterday from the Federal Metropolitan Correctional Center. He attributed the accusation to "disinformation" that he said enemies had spread to discredit him.

The new indictment, announced Wednesday in Bologna, follows an earlier charge, which Dr. Pazienza has also denied, that he and others conspired to cover up responsibility for the bombing by right-wing terrorists by blaming the attack on leftists.

Charged along with Dr. Pazienza in the latest indictment were seven others, including Licio Gelli, the fugitive former head of a secretive rightist Masonic lodge, and Stefano delle Chiaie, one of Italy's most wanted neo-Fascist terrorists.

Charged With Embezzlement

Dr. Pazienza, a 39-year-old nonpracticing physician who headed a special section of the Italian Information and Military Security Service in 1980 and 1981, has been in jail here since March on an Italian warrant charging him with embezzling $200,000 from the bankrupt Banco Ambrosiano. He has called the payment a legitimate fee. A Federal District Court Judge, Charles L. Brieant Jr., ruled in September that Dr. Pazienza could be sent to Italy for trial, but the extradition has been stayed pending appeal.

The new indictment was the latest twist in the convoluted case of the mysterious intelligence man, whose name has repeatedly come up in some of Italy's gravest postwar scandals and investigations.

The day before the latest indictment, for example, Dr. Pazienza was questioned here by a visiting Italian judge investigating the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II in Rome in 1981. The judge, Ilario Martella, came to New York to take Dr. Pazienza's testimony on an allegation by the convicted gunman, Mehmet Ali Agca, and another witness that Dr. Pazienza had sought to get Mr. Agca to implicate Bulgarian agents in the shooting.

Contradictory Testimony

In contradictory testimony in the continuing shooting conspiracy trial in Rome, Mr. Agca and an admitted racketeer, Giovanni Pandico, asserted that intelligence officials including Dr. Pazienza had visited Mr. Agca in prison and had offered him favors if he would implicate the Bulgarians.

But Dr. Pazienza said Wednesday that Judge Martella had cleared him of any involvement in the case.

In a statement issued through his lawyer, the prisoner said: "Judge Martella fully recognized my total innocence with regard to the charge that I was involved directly or indirectly with Ali Agca. My documentation on this point was fully accepted by him."

Mr. Pazienza's lawyer, Edward A. Morrison, a former New York City Deputy Mayor who was also present during the questioning, supported his client's account. Judge Martella made no comment.

David W. Denton, an assistant United States Attorney who brought the extradition case against Dr. Pazienza and who sat in on the questioning in his Justice Department office in Manhattan, also declined to comment on the case.

Departure Reportedly Delayed

Judge Martella had been scheduled to return to Italy yesterday, but Dr. Pazienza said he found out that the judge had delayed his departure in order to talk to one of the United States Customs Service agents who arrested Dr. Pazienza in New York last March 4.

Dr. Pazienza said the judge was also seeking to talk to writers for the Village Voice about an article, scheduled to appear next week, on Dr. Pazienza and Italian rightists. The writers, reached by telephone, said they could not discuss the matter.

Dr. Pazienza has previously said that Customs Service agents had once questioned him about a reported sighting of Mr. delle Chiaie and an unidentified Turk in Miami. Dr. Pazienza has also charged that Customs Service agents were seeking to "cover up" awareness of the fugitive's presence in the United States. A Customs Service spokesman in New York, Dennis Fagan, did not return a telephone call.

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